

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 02442 131208Z

51

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 817

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT EEC EFTA SZ

SUBJ: EC/EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN

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PAGE 02 BERN 02442 131208Z

REF: A) STATE 120525; B) EC BRUSSELS 3032; C) GENEVA 4079

1. RULES OF ORIGIN EXPERT IN SWISS DIVISION OF COMMERCE (BRUNNER) TOLD EMBOFF THAT SWISS MISSION TO EC AND ALL OTHER EFTA COUNTRY MISSIONS IN BRUSSELS HAD SENT SEPARATE LETTERS TO EC COMMISSION MAKING IDENTICAL PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN EC-EFTA RULES OF ORIGIN. (THUS THESE ARE NEITHER PURELY SWEDISH NOR EFTA PROPOSALS PER SE BUT RATHER IDENTICAL EFTA COUNTRY PROPOSALS.) PROPOSALS ARE UNDER STUDY WITHIN EC AND HAVE NOT APPARENTLY YET BEEN SUBJECT OF JOINT EXAMINATION BY EC MEMBER STATES, COMMISSION, AND EFTA COUNTRIES, ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME DISCUSSION OF GENERAL R/O PROBLEMS IN SWISS-EC MIXED CUSTOMS COMMITTEE AND PRESUMABLY IN SIMILAR BODIES INVOLVING OTHER EFTA COUNTRIES. BRUNNER EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT, WHILE AS HE NOTED EC DECISION PROCEDURE ON SUCH MATTERS WERE VERY "CUMBERSOME", SUBJECT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AFTER SUMMER RECESS AND SOMETHING COULD BE DECIDED BY END OF 1975. SOURCE, HOWEVER, NOTED THAT EC (PRESUMABLY PARTI-CURARLY COMMISSION AND FRG) ALSO PREPARING SET OF PROPOSALS WHICH EFTA COUNTRIES HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED. SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING OF SWISS -EC MIXED COMMITTEE WHICH TOOK PLACE ABOUT JUNE 4 TOOK NOTE OF SUBSIDIARY CUSTOMS GROUP WORK ON R/O'S BUT DID NOT DISCUSS SUBSTANCE.

2. BRUNNER INDICATED THAT MORE PRESSING PROBLEM THAN R/OS FOR EFTA AND EC CUSTOMS EXPERTS WAS TO COME UP WITH NEW FORMULATION FOR DRAWBACK PROCEDURE SINCE RULE SET FORTH IN ARTICLE 23 OF PROTOCOL 3 TO SWISS /EC AGREEMENT AND SIMILAR PROVISION OF OTHER EFTA COUNTRY/EC AGREEMENTS HAD PROVED UNWORKABLE AND ITS APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED FOR 1975.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION DIVISION OF COMMERCE OFFICER IN CHARGE GATT AFFAIRS (DUNKEL) SAID THAT EFTA COUNTRIES AND EC ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR JULY 11 SESSION OF ARTICLE XXII GATT CONSULTATION WHICH HE THOUGHT MIGHT OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR MORE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION THAN PREVIOUS SESSIONS. DUNKEL SAID THAT EFTA COUNTRY AND POSSIBLE EC SUGGESTIONS FOR RULES OF ORIGIN CHANGES NOTED ABOVE DERIVED MAINLY FROM PROBLEMS AND COMPLICATIONS WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BERN 02442 131208Z

AUTHORITIES AND TRADERS WITH IN EC/EFTA HAD EXPERIENCED. HE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT LESS USG SAYS ABOUT SUCH CHANGES UNTIL THEY ARE FINALLY DECIDED THE BETTER THE CHANCES THEY WILL BE ADOPTED.
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